(c) The reasons for delay in settlement of cases are as under:

(i) A large number of vacancies of Members.

(ii) Out of 27125, 6032 Public Sector Undertakings cases were stayed *sine die* till March, 98 in view of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 11.10.91, which were re-opened subsequently in view of the revised orders dated 8.12.98 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(iii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

(iv) Adjournments sought by the applicants/their counsels for producing their witnesses or other evidence.

(v) Transfer of claims from one Bench to the other, sought by the claimants.

Royalty by the Railways to Orissa

1894. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had given a verdict in Civil Appeal No. 2235 of 1996, calling upon the Railways to pay royalty to Orissa Government for utilization of minor minerals for construction of Koraput-Royagada Rail Link; and

(b) whether the royalty has since been paid to the State Governemnt, if not, by when this would be paid to honour the Supreme Court verdict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The royalty as worked out by the Railway Administration has since been paid to the State Government. However, the State Government has further preferred claims amounting to Rs. 29.69 crore. The Railway Administration had tried to sort out the issue amicably. However, getting no positive result, the Railways have approached Hon'ble High Court to Cuttack and a stay has been granted in the matter.